

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes; said system comprising:

 a data network;
 an information retrieval client system connected to said data network; and
 one or more information item storage nodes connected to the data network,
 wherein each storage node comprises a store configured to store a plurality of information items and an indexer for transmitting data derived from information items stored at that storage node to said client system via said data network, and
 said client system includes a node position generating unit configured to generate a node position in respect of each information item represented by said received data responsive to data received from said indexer of a storage node.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said indexer at each storage node is operable to transmit data to said client system to said client system in batches; each batch comprising at least data derived from some of those information items stored at that storage node for which data has not previously been transmitted to said client system.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 2, wherein each batch of data comprises data derived from those information items stored at that storage node for which data has not previously been transmitted to said client system.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said indexer at each storage node is operable to transmit to said client system a batch of data derived from information items stored at that storage node in response to an information retrieval operation at said client system.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said indexer at each storage node is operable to detect an information item which is modified or newly stored at that storage node and, in response to such a detection, to send a batch of data derived from that information item to said client system.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said data network is an internet network.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 6, wherein one or more of said storage nodes are internet search servers.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said information items are at least partially textual; and said data derived from a stored information item comprises the whole of said textual content of that information item.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said data derived from a stored information item comprises textual data indicative of said content of the stored information item.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said client system comprises a graphical user interface for displaying a representation of at least some of said nodes as a two-dimensional display array of display points within a display area on a user display.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 10, wherein said client system comprises: (i) a user control for defining a two-dimensional region of said display area; and (ii) a detector for detecting those display points lying within said two-dimensional region of said display area.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 11, wherein said graphical user interface is operable to display a list of data representing information items, being those information items mapped onto nodes corresponding to display points displayed within said two-dimensional region of said display area.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 12, wherein said client system comprises a user control for choosing one or more information items from said list; said graphical user interface being operable to alter manner of display within said display area of display points corresponding to selected information items.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said data derived from an information item includes an identification of said storage location of that information item.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 14, wherein said identification comprises a universal resource indicator (URI).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): An information storage node for use in an information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes; said storage node being connected via a data network to an information retrieval client system including a node position generating unit configured to generate a node position in respect of each information item represented by said received data responsive to data received from said storage node; the storage node comprising:

a store configured to store a plurality of information items and an indexer for transmitting data derived from information items stored at that storage node to said client system via said data network.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): An information retrieval client system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in said array of nodes; said client system being connectable via a data network to one or more information item storage nodes each comprising a store for storing a plurality of information items and an indexer for transmitting data derived from information items stored at that storage node to said client system via said data network, the client system comprising:

a node position generating unit configured to generate a node position in respect of each information item represented by said received data responsive to data received from said indexer of a storage node.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The portable data processing device comprising the client system according to claim 17.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A video acquisition and/or processing apparatus comprising the client system according to claim 17.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): An information retrieval method in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes in a system comprising a data network, an information retrieval client system connected to said data network, and one or more information item storage nodes connected to said data network; said method comprising:

storing a plurality of information items at each storage node;
transmitting data by each storage node derived from information items stored at that storage node to said client system via said data network; and
generating a node position in respect of each information item represented by said received data by said client system responsive to data received from an indexer of a storage node.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A method of operation of an information storage node for use in an information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes; said storage node being connectable via a data network to an information retrieval client system having logic, responsive to data received from the storage node, for generating a node

position in respect of each information item represented by the received data; said method comprising:

storing a plurality of information items; and

transmitting data derived from information items stored at that storage node to the client system via the data network.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A method of operation of an information retrieval client system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of said information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the array of nodes; said client system being connectable via a data network to one or more information item storage nodes each comprising a store for storing a plurality of information items and an indexer for transmitting data derived from information items stored at that storage node to said client system via said data network, said method comprising:

generating a node position in respect of each information item represented by said received data responsive to data received from said indexer of a storage node.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the method according to any one of claims 20 to 22.

Claims 24-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the data is metadata derived from the information item.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the data is the information item with all stop words removed.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the data is a list of all stem words included in the information item.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 27, wherein the data is a feature vector derived from the metadata.